

Daily Meditation 9-28-2026

Naomi Klein and Astra Taylor Join Forces with Gil Durán on the New Fascism

Good morning.

Today we are considering Gil Durán's book on *The Nerd Reich: Silicon Valley Fascism and the War on Democracy* more fully, and I'm dealing especially with the chapter on the Antichrist, which occurs about two-thirds of the way through the book. And of course, I'm bringing in also the work of Naomi Klein and her co-writer in their new book on *End Times Fascism*, Astra Taylor, activist and filmmaker, co-writer with Naomi Klein for that book.

It was interesting that Gil Durán, in his book that came out this year, alludes to Klein and Taylor's work because they wrote an article together. Their book just appeared this month, just technically September 15, but it's interesting to me that Gil Durán, on page 226, introduces these two authors and quotes from an article they wrote together in *The Guardian* in 2025.

"This is where the Tech Bros merge with the Theo Bros, a real group of hyper-patriarchal Christian Supremacists," he quotes in the same, and I have this citation in my book as well. But this fits with everything that Gil Durán is pointing out that the evangelical Christian movement that has supported the right-wing movement in America now for many years, originally started with oil barons and media types, along with evangelicals, capturing institutions. "This oil money is now chump change," as he says, "in comparison to the resources commanded by captains of the dark enlightenment."

In other words, by Silicon Valley, where the money is even more egregious and explicitly swashing around in the Defense Department, in the ICE Department, where the far-right wing has truly invaded under Trump and MAGA. Pretty good argument, I think, for my book on MAGA as Antichrist.

But he also makes a connection that's important to make, and it hasn't been done enough, between the elevation of Christian Nationalists like Russell Vought, the Project 2025 overseer, who is now director of the Office of Management and Budget, a tremendously powerful position. But Gil Durán also brings in the Catholic Integralists, far-right wing Catholics, who share many of Christian Nationalism's societal goals. Leonard Leo, the architect in that movement, who really was responsible for all six of our far-right Supreme Court judges; he's the man behind the right's Supreme Court majority. He has built a machine that remade the legal system.

And he points out how the Christian Nationalism and Catholic Integralism movements share in common the Heritage Foundation, the Federalist Society, the Claremont Institute. And again, Kevin Roberts, the architect of Project 2025, had deep ties to the Catholic Information Center, which is the Opus Dei headquarters in Washington, D.C. So all this is very important that the religious right is evolving in our time, and has this major role to play now in the Silicon Valley version of right-wing end-times fascism.

And he points out that there is an agenda, a playbook which has three elements: one, frame democratic government as the enemy of the family; two, position tech companies as champions of decentralized authority; in other words, when you can blame everything on a deep state, so-called, what's next? Well, tech companies are being called upon to step in and fill the void, if you will, that democracy, the dying democracy, is offering. And the third step of the movement is to unite the movements in a moral war against the authoritarian state. And to do this, you have to elaborate on Ronald Reagan's philosophy that government is not a solution; it is the problem itself. So, really, this movement began in the '80s with Reagan, and has expanded and become more explicit in its goals.

And J.D. Vance, who is sponsored by Peter Thiel, is really the advance person when it comes to carrying the water for the Silicon Valley's new religion and new version of far-right wing Christianity. *He became the face of tech-right governance. Behind him, Thiel's network moved into the machinery of the state. Under the banner of patriotic tech, this new block is building the infrastructure of control: clouds, AI, finance, drones, satellites, an integrated system called the Authoritarian Stack.*

He quotes Biden, who in his final speech said, *There is now a tech industrial complex. We talked about the military industrial complex that Dwight Eisenhower warned us about. That was another era.* There is now a tech industrial complex, and of course that's where the money is with the Defense Department, which is now blossoming into over \$1 trillion budget. And of course don't leave out the ICE money, over \$70 billion that the current Congress has voted. But that's where the money is, and that's where the action is, you might say.

He also points out that *in January 2024, Thiel and Palantir CEO visited Tel Aviv in Israel to announce a strategic partnership with the Israel Ministry of Defense.* How much of that has been behind the genocide in Gaza? And Durán points out that *Israel's genocide continues because it is lucrative for many. The political economy has turned genocidal. Arms manufacturers and Big Tech together are making money out of the genocide in Gaza.*

So there's much to absorb in this relationship of religion, perverse religion, I might say, not a Christ religion, but an antichrist Religion, this link, are with Silicon Valley in this time. And Peter Thiel is literally preaching about the Antichrist and about how our government is fundamentally evil, it needs to be replaced. "Democracy is dead," and he even says that a lot of people thought that FDR was suspiciously close to the Antichrist.

And even Jeffrey Epstein, who was in correspondence with Thiel and had meetings with Thiel in person, he was talking to Thiel about these things: *a return to tribalism, to counter globalization, amazing new alliances. Epstein saw the world headed toward a breaking point, and looked for ways to capitalize to make money out of it,* which is the whole thrust of these AI oligarchs and billionaires.

And he ends the chapter on the Antichrist with a story from Thiel, who lectured on the Antichrist, three lectures in San Francisco. And at the last one he said, "Am I a genius, or am I an insane person?" Gil Durán says, "Tragically, the two are not mutually exclusive."

Thank you. We'll see you next week.